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CENTRAL FAX CENTER**AUG 30 2006****REMARKS / ARGUMENTS****Amendments to the Specification**

The specification has been amended to correct obvious typographical errors.

Status of the Claims:

Claims 1-9 are currently pending. Claims 1, 2, and 7 have been amended to more clearly set forth the subject matter of the invention. Support for the amendment to claim 1 is found in the specification at page 3, line 13 and page 3, line 20. New claims 10 and 11 have been added which are supported by original claims 2 and 7, respectively.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 5 and 8-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,977,016 to Thornton et al. ("Thornton") in view of JP 408158160 A to Kamihashi et al. ("Kamihashi"). Similarly, claims 1-4 and 8-9 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Thornton in view of JP 408134721 A to Hashimoto et al. ("Hashimoto"). Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment of claim 1 obviates these grounds of rejection since the cited references do not disclose every element of the amended claims.

The present invention provides a fabric of a single woven layer of bicomponent filaments. The fabric has been calendered on at least one surface to reduce air permeability. Further, the fabric provides stretch which is in part due to the composition of the bicomponent fibers which have a side-by-side cross section. This is important as it is well-known in the art that a bicomponent filaments having side-by-side cross section can develop significantly higher levels of latent crimp as compared to a fiber having a core-sheath cross section.

Thornton teaches a woven fabric for use in an air bag which has been calendered on both sides to reduce air permeability. However, Thornton does not disclose, teach or suggest a fabric including bicomponent fibers having a side-by-side cross section.

Hashimoto or Kamihashi are cited each in combination with Thornton to teach the inclusion of a synthetic bicomponent filament. However, neither Hashimoto nor Kamihashi teaches a bicomponent filament having a side-by-side cross section. To the contrary, both Hashimoto and Kamihashi are limited to disclosure of a bicomponent filament having a core-sheath cross section.

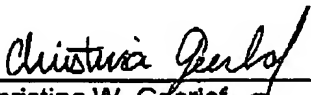
Each of Thornton, Kamihashi and Hashimoto are directed toward preparation of automobile air bags. While one could arguably use a fabric intended for air bag in the preparation of a garment, the opposite is not necessarily true. As Thornton points out at column 3, lines 58-60, an air bag, "must withstand [the forces of explosive inflation immediately followed by human impact] without bursting, tearing or stretching to the point where the air bag no longer serves its protective function." Considering the stretch associated with bicomponent filaments having a side-by-side cross section, it is not likely that an air bag made of a fabric including such bicomponent filaments as in the present invention would be able to serve the required protective function, since such a fabric would stretch. Therefore, not only do Hashimoto and Kamahashi fail to teach a bicomponent filament as in the present invention, but also one of skill in the art would have no motivation to modify the teachings of Hashimoto or Kamahashi to provide a bicomponent filament of side-by-side cross section.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, claims 1-11 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Application be allowed. If prosecution may be further advanced, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss this application.

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Respectfully submitted,


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